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MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY NEWS

ISSUED QUARTERLY

By

THE MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY COMMISSION

and

THE MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER



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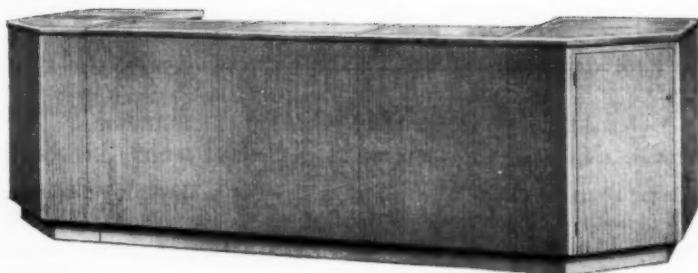
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Mississippi Library Association Meeting, Oct. 23-24.....	93
MLA Members	95
News from Libraries:	
College	99
School	101
Public	103
Under The Law	107
Of General Interest:	
American Heritage Project	108
Recent Visitors	109
PTA Reading and Library Service Chairman Appointed	109
Budget Making Time.....	109
Radio Spot Announcements.....	109
National Book Week	111
Library Service To The Colored Race.....	112
Books Last Longer if Handled Carefully.....	111
READ THE EXCELLENT ADVERTISEMENTS IN THIS BULLETIN	

MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEETING**(October 23-24)****By****Manie Berry**

(Vice-President, in charge of program)

Believing that the best is just about right for MLA members, the Executive Board is maneuvering to give just that. A forecast of the enjoyment waiting for you at the convention takes this shape.

Friday, October 23

9:00-2:00 Registration

2:00 p.m. First Meeting

Welcome to the coast—Senator Hermes Gautier
Introduction of exhibitors
Talk—Helen Wessells
Panel discussion—Effective Library Service:
Leader—Gretchen Schenk
Public library—Helen Wessells
School library—Annabelle Koonce
University library—Garland Taylor
Special library—Katherine Hanley

7:30 Address on Intellectual Freedom by Mark Ethridge
Social hour**Saturday, October 24**

9:30 Business meeting
11:30 Visit exhibits
12:30 Luncheon—Address by David Cottrell on "Mississippi's Growth"
2:30 Book Discussion, by Jean Colby
3:00 Section Meetings: School
College
Public
4:30-7:30 Free time
7:30 Book dinner
Christine Govan, speaker

WHO'S WHO AMONG VISITING SPEAKERS

The array of notable personalities is a guarantee of a stimulating program. It includes: Senator Hermes Gautier of Pascagoula, a legislative friend worth knowing; Helen Wessells, editor of the Library Journal; Gretchen Schenk, Director of the Mississippi library survey and author of the forthcoming book County and Regional Library Development; Garland Taylor, Director of Libraries, Tulane University; Jean Colby, children's editor of Ariel Books for Farrar, Straus & Young; Annabelle Koonce, School Library Supervisor; Katherine Hanley, librarian, V. A. Hospital; Mark Ethridge, publisher, Courier Journal; Christine Govan, Author and lecturer. Those who have heard Mrs. Govan's "My Life In An Ivory Tower," say it's too funny for anything.

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MLA MEMBERS

(Recent additions)

Alexander, Mrs. Josephine, Lbn. All Saints College, Vicksburg
Combs, Mrs. J. J. Lbn., West Point High School
Derden, Mrs. M. P., Lbn. Yazoo City Library
Dorothy, Sister, Principal, St. Joseph Academy, Bay St. Louis
Ethridge, Jean, Lbn., Drew High School
Friedhoff, Florence, Lbn., Biloxi, Public Library
Furr, Mrs. Francis, Ch. Board of Trustees, Pontotoc
Gay, Sidney, Lbn., State Plant Board, State College
Hartin, Sykes, Director of Libraries, University of Mississippi
Hicks, Evelyn E., Teacher, Sledge Spec. Cons. H. Sch.
James, Mildred, Tchr., Heidelberg Sch., Clarksdale
Kimbrell, Mrs. Louise W., Lbn. McComb High School
Perrault, Katrina, Asst. Lbn., Fisk Pub. Lib. Natchez
Wood, Ludie, Lbn., Pontotoc County Lib.

Those who have not paid 1953 MLA dues may do so by sending \$1.00 to the treasurer, Miss Elizabeth Dakin, Delta State, Cleveland.

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FEARFUL OF NEW IDEAS WOULD BE A DYING DEMOCRACY."

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

ALA MEETING

The American Library Association meeting in Los Angeles was, like all Gaul, divided into three parts: (1) The grave concern with the problem of intellectual freedom, (2) the growing emphasis on Audio Visual Materials and 3) the analysis in the Public Library Division of the implications of the Adult Education Survey.

One of the best parts of the big conference was unquestionably the pre-conference on intellectual freedom. The timeliness of the subject, the seriousness of the problem and the prominence of speakers made that two day discussion one of the most outstanding of professional meetings. The alarming experiences that libraries across the country have had with censorship is a reminder that "it could happen here."

The pre-conference on Audio Visual work established new concepts of the function of Audio Visual materials within a library's program. Dr. Raymond Swank of Stanford University gave perhaps the best summary on this question. His speech in full is on file at the Library Commission in the proceedings of the conference. All those who are wrestling with the decision as to what part Audio Visual materials should play in the library's budget would do well to examine Dr. Swank's speech. In the discussion period that followed Dr. Swank's address a question posed by a Mississippi representative was "if a library is struggling to build up its book

collection, it is advisable to wait until the book stock is at least somewhat adequate before attempting to go into the field of Audio Visual materials"? This proved an interesting question for this group of experienced librarians and the summary of their recommendations were: "Audio Visual materials are as important in the library as book materials and their acquisition should be made side by side." To reiterate, their recommendation was As Mississippi's libraries are being developed they should give attention to the acquisition of Audio Visual materials as a necessary part of a modern library's holdings.

This very stimulating conference left many librarians with the feeling that their library training was behind the times and that to be up-to-date they must somehow acquire knowledge in the Audio Visual field.

The third phase of the Conference was the thought provoking series of meetings on implications of the Adult Education survey. It was not surprising to find that in many places in the United States the library and its Adult Education program is in the same situation as in Mississippi. The survey and the discussions served to show what libraries are doing, are not doing and what they would like to do in the field of Adult Education. It emphasized the challenge which libraries, both large and small, face today—the challenge not only to serve children and that part of the adult population that will seek the library, but also to reach adults who do not know of or perhaps care about the library and its offerings—a challenge to the library to have a dynamic, forceful program that permeates the life of the community and necessarily affects adult life.

A significant statement was made by a Georgia librarian regarding this new understanding of the library role in Adult Education. She said: "In Georgia we have a saying, 'we need a mountain to rest our eyes against'". Adult Education, this new, yet old library responsibility is the mountain. The age of public library adolescence is passing and a position of full grown maturity must be assumed if libraries are to justify their existence.

Another highlight of the Conference was a bookmobile clinic with discussions, and some solutions, on bookmobile problems. One definite conclusion of these discussions was that no library with a budget of less than \$40,000 can afford bookmobile service. This was not a theoretical statement but came from the pooled thinking of many librarians who had tried it the hard way—attempting it on a too-small budget. Recommendations regarding bookmobile service were: (1) that a minimum bookmobile stop of one-half hour be recommended, (2) that \$12,000 is about the right figure for an initial bookmobile book collection, (3) that the glamour of a bookmobile will sell it to begin with but only service will maintain its popularity and its importance, (4) the principal item in maintaining a bookmobile's effectiveness is staying on schedule, (5) all librarians were unanimous in their recommendation that bookmobile service must be given by professional librarians. It is unfair to have professional library service only for headquarters patrons. Other patrons deserve the same service.

The several sessions of the Council took care of important ALA business. General sessions were inspiring and entertaining with addresses by Erle Stanley Gardner, Jay Monaghan of the University of California and a magnificient address by William Bernard Ready of Stanford University. At these sessions special awards were made and the Mississippi delegation was particularly proud when the John Cotton Dana Award was given to the Lee County Library, Tupelo. This was recognition of the

fine public relations program in a county library in the 25,000-100,000 population class and of the work of Willie D. Halsell, librarian.

Several sessions were devoted to the American Heritage Project with discussions on administration, program planning and leadership training. There were many new faces in the group in addition to those seen at previous meetings in Chicago, thus indicating increasing interest in the project and the organization of many single discussion groups by libraries throughout the country.

Lay leaders played a prominent part in the conference. Mrs. Merlyn Moore, Chairman of the Arkansas Library Commission Board, charmed and entertained her audience on several occasions with the story of library progress in Arkansas, of how necessary it is for citizens to be brought into library planning and for lay and professional leaders to work together for the greatest accomplishments.

Of course much of the value of attending an ALA Conference comes in meeting other librarians and seeing their libraries. This conference furnished occasion to see "how the other half lives"—. The beautiful Los Angeles Public, The Huntington Library, The Pasadena Public and the elegant San Marino library with its four dollars per capita support.

Then there was Hollywood and other interesting sight seeing tours planned by thoughtful hosts.

The climax of the entire conference came when ALA President Downes read the stirring message from President Eisenhower. Confronted as we are with the inroads being made into intellectual freedom, it was both thrilling and challenging to hear the President of the United States come forth with such a clear cut statement as to the place of freedom of thought and expression in a democracy and to have him give the libraries such a responsibility for helping to maintain that freedom.

The President's message is given in quotations on the cover and throughout this bulletin.

Mississippi librarians attending the conference were Anna Roberts and Mary Jo Magee, Mississippi Southern; Anona Jenkins and Louise Trevilion, Clarksdale Public; Ernestine Lipscomb, Jackson College; Mary Love, Elementary School Library Supervisor, Jackson; Zenobia Coleman, Tougaloo College; Virginia Robinson, M. S. C. W.; Lura Currier and Eunice Eley, Library Commission.

"... WE MUST IN THESE TIMES BE INTELLIGENTLY ALERT NOT ONLY TO THE FANATIC CUNNING OF COMMUNIST CONSPIRACY—
BUT ALSO TO THE GRAVE DANGERS IN MEETING FANATICISM
WITH IGNORANCE. FOR, IN ORDER TO FIGHT TOTALITARIANS
WHO EXPLOIT THE WAYS OF FREEDOM TO SERVE THEIR OWN
ENDS, THERE ARE SOME ZEALOTS WHO—WITH MORE WRATH
THAN WISDOM—WOULD ADOPT A STRANGELY UNINTELLIGENT
COURSE. THEY WOULD TRY TO DEFEND FREEDOM BY DENYING
FREEDOM'S FRIENDS THE OPPORTUNITY OF STUDYING COM-
MUNISM IN ITS ENTIRETY—ITS PLAUSIBILITIES, ITS FALSITIES,
ITS WEAKNESSES."

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

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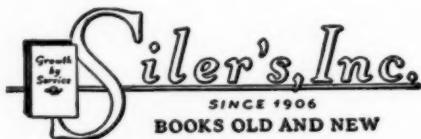
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NEWS FROM LIBRARIES

College Libraries, Reported by

Samuel J. Marino

A beautiful service of dedication and acceptance of the Wood Memorial Library Building was held on Sunday, May 31, 1953, at Wood Junior College in Mathiston. Participating in the service were Bishop Marvin A. Franklin, Mrs. J. N. Rodeheaver of the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church, President and Mrs. Charles T. Morgan and Mr. Thomas Johnston, the architect.

Representing the best in materials and workmanship, the red brick building is of early American architecture. Inside, the wood work and walls are finished in white, green and driftwood. The floors and stairways are of asphalt and rubber tile in complementary colors.

The general reading and reference room on the second floor has a seating capacity of one hundred students. Here the furniture is blond wood. The two levels of fire proof stacks have a capacity of 50,000 volumes. The audio-visual room, the seminar, the children's library, the librarian's office and the student lounges are on the first floor.

The last of May, Mrs. Ruth B. Duncan, B.S., M.A., and M.Ed., George Peabody College for Teachers was appointed Librarian. For a number of years, Mrs. Duncan was a member of the faculty, and Reference Librarian for Peabody College. At present, Mrs. Duncan and her co-workers are making a survey of the book collection preparatory to ordering the titles which will strengthen the academic program.

State College announces the appointment of Willie D. Halsell, formerly Lee County Librarian, as assistant reference librarian. Other appointments at State College include Dot Graves, assistant circulation librarian, and Joyce Kilmer, assistant cataloger, both graduates of M.S.C.W.

State College proudly announces that it now has an incunabulum. The volume was included in the collection of books weighing nearly three tons which the Library received as a gift from the family of the late Major William Starling of Greenville. The incunabulum is the first edition of Suidas' *Greek Lexicon*, printed in Milan, Italy, in November, 1499. It is generally in good condition except for some water damage to the binding and first few pages. This is the only incunabulum in the State printed in Greek characters; the two incunabula at the University are in Latin. So far as is known, these are the only incunabula in the State.

Mississippi Southern announces the appointment of Miss Elizabeth Vardaman as reference librarian. Miss Vardaman graduated with distinction from the University with a bachelor's and a master's degree. She took additional graduate training at Columbia and Chicago, and received her master's degree in library science from George Peabody College. Miss Madeline Flynt will be the full time assistant professor in the department of library science.

Miss Anna M. Roberts and her assistant, Mrs. Mary Jo Magee, attended the Los Angeles ALA conference, and Miss Roberts participated in the Workshop on the Core of Education for Librarianship at the University of Chicago, August 10-15.

Two members of the Jackson College Library staff enrolled in Library Schools this summer were Mrs. Lelia Rhodes at Atlanta University and Miss Gwendolyn Shadwick at the University of Illinois. Ernestine A. Lipscomb, Librarian, attended the Los Angeles ALA Meeting and also the Library Institute preceding the conference at the University of California. In May Mrs. Lipscomb participated in two high school career conferences held at mound Bayou and at Utica Institute. About forty students were in the group on librarianship.

Delta State announces the appointment of two new staff members who are Miss Mabel Brister, Cataloger, and Mrs. Winona Colbert, secretarial assistant.

Eastman Library of Tougaloo College, in an effort to keep alive the practical application of the Gutenberg Festival reported in this column in March and to stimulate the use of books and the building of personal libraries, presented ten books to the outstanding senior in each department which offers a major. Similar gifts were presented to the two students who had used the Library most during the year. The presentations were made by Zenobia Coleman, Librarian, at a tea sponsored by the library staff and Mrs. Lucius R. Eastman, a trustee of the College. This is planned as an annual event.

Miss Coleman participated in the discussions held in connection with the conference on "Resource Experience Related to Child Health and Personality Development" held at Tougaloo during the month of May. The Department of Library Science was a co-sponsor of the conference and contributed books, printed matter and pictorial displays.

Mrs. Hazel S. Moore, Assistant Librarian at Tougaloo, was chairman of the program committee when the College celebrated Alumni Week. Displays in the Library depicted recent College historical events.

The University announces the appointment of Thomas W. Tullos of Trumann, Arkansas, as Order Librarian, Mrs. Bernice Johnson of Raleigh as Periodicals Librarian, Mary Jo Austin of Tie Plant as Junior Reference Librarian, and Norma Fay Beeman of Newton as Junior Cataloger. The library schools represented by the appointees are Peabody for Mr. Tullos, Emory for Mrs. Johnson, L.S.U. for Miss Austin and M.S.C.W. for Miss Beeman. In addition, Mildred W. Davis is now head of the Acquisitions Department, and Mrs. Martha W. Carter has been designated Acting Gift and Exchange Librarian.

Jacqueline Bobo, Junior Reference Librarian, University, was married to Dr. Alfred Schnur on June 20. Dr. Schnur is Associate Professor of Sociology and State Consultant in Criminology.

Samuel J. Marino, Assistant Director, University, was invited by Jim Housel to address the Hernando Rotary luncheon July 29. The talk given outlined the cooperative archives program and indicated how the citizen can contribute to the growth of the University Library. As a result, the University received on deposit the private documents of Admiral Richard Henry Leigh, a native of Panola County, and Commander in Chief of the United States Fleet, 1932-33. The documents belong to Mr. R. E. Leigh, nephew of the late Admiral and owner of a drug store in Hernando.

Dr. Dorothea B. Morse announces for August the granting of four masters in Education with a major in library science at the University.

Miss Mary Bassett, for some years librarian at Southern Christian Institute, has returned to her home in Martainsville, Virginia, due to the

closing of the college by the school board. Miss Bassett plans to enter the University of Illinois for advanced library study.

The only chapter in Mississippi of Alpha Beta Alpha, the national undergraduate library science fraternity, was installed at MSCW in 1950. Ann Baird, and MSCW graduate, was national president. Miss Baird is now children's librarian at St. Agnes Branch of the New York Public Library. ABA won the first place award and the \$100 cash prize this year in the Student Clubs division of the Nation-wide Field Award competition of the American Library Association for recruiting people into the library profession.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Reported by Mattie Milner

The State Department of Education sponsored two workshops for school librarians this summer. The first was held at the University June 8-12. The other took place August 3-7 at Mississippi Southern College. Annabelle Koonce, Library Supervisor, State Department of Education, directed the workshops.

The main topic for discussion at the University was teaching the use of books and libraries. Overall problems and policies of teaching library usage were discussed. Then the group examined the newly adopted English and social studies textbooks to see what skills were necessary to the proper use of the library in connection with courses in each field, when these skills should be learned, and when it was necessary to review them. Miss Thelma Adams of Tupelo High School led some of the discussions. Mrs. Aucy Ramsey of Cleveland High School and Miss Margaret Armstrong of Coffeeville High School served as recorders.

Time was given for the discussion of miscellaneous library problems. At one session the group visited the audio-visual department where they saw movies and filmstrips and listened to records. Miss Marion Horton, visiting library science instructor, told of her experiences in Istanbul and Munich, where she was sent by the American Library Association. Miss Christine Drake of the University Department of Extension explained the purpose and use of the Drama Loan Library. One evening Mrs. Dorothea Morse entertained the workshop participants in her home.

Student assistants was the central topic for the workshop at Mississippi Southern College. Mrs. Olin D. Moore, School Librarian at Many, Louisiana, was consultant. As part of the discussion the group compiled a handbook for student assistants. School librarians may use it as a guide in setting up their own student assistants' manual, changing the policies to fit their own particular libraries. The editorial committee for the handbook consisted of Mrs. Laura Bowie of Durant High School, Mrs. Hazel Polk of Forest Hill High School, Mrs. Merry Thomas of Magnolia High School, and Miss Glida Bethea of East Forrest High School of Petal.

The workshop participants were guests of Mississippi Southern College at a luncheon. The special feature of one afternoon session was a tour of the libraries of Mississippi Southern's Demonstration School, Hattiesburg High School, and East Forrest High School. Mrs. R. C. Cook entertained the librarians at a coke party.

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Miss Elizabeth Reynolds, a former librarian at Leland High school, is returning there as librarian this year.

Miss Frances Murry, who studied at Peabody this summer, will be librarian at Southwest Mississippi Junior College, Summit.

Miss Jeffie Lou Robinson has accepted a position as librarian at Shaw.

Stephen F. Clark, librarian at West Tallahatchie High School, attended Peabody this summer.

Mrs. Edith James will be the librarian at Runnelstown.

And congratulations to Alberta Edmondson, field librarian with the Jackson Public Schools, who received the Master's Degree in Library Science at Louisiana State University in August.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Reported by Willie D. Halsell

Vacation Reading —

Summer reading programs have come to a happy conclusion. Vicksburg planned one around the Build Your Library theme, with bricks in the building representing Fiction and Non-fiction books. Gulfport used a space travel theme, while in Yazoo City those who read a designated number of books pinned apples on a tree. The children's section in the libraries at Brookhaven, Hazlehurst, and West Point were quite eye-catching. And Carey Moore, Branch Librarian for the Northeast Regional Library, organized a library club among the young fry. They learned library procedures and techniques, and then came back and put into practical use the things they learned. The Space Pilots Club of the Greenville library enrolled 342 boys and girls. Greenwood reports clubs in three branches and the main library. The new clubs in Williams School branch operates two mornings a week when the library staff members are present. Before school was out, the teachers and principal gave publicity to the summer reading program, and a letter to each child's parents accompanied the final report cards. Story hour and Vacation Reading Clubs were combined effectively in the Capital Regional Library. Aided by interested local women, librarians in the nine different branches arranged Story Hour programs for a ten week period. A certificate was awarded to each child who read at least 20 books. In the First Region, the summer reading program was coordinated with the bookmobile. The story teller used film strips, records, and stories. Branch libraries in this area too held their own story hours. In Sardis the Fire Department furnished the refreshments.

Better and Better Every Day:

Beauty, service and comfort are being achieved in many libraries. At Clarksdale the Juvenile Department has been improved by a new rubber tile floor and fluorescent lights. Meridian has a new circulation desk which was built according to specification. Jeanne Broach says that even storage spaces fit their purpose and that the depressable book bin for returned books will prevent their piling up on top of the desk. There are colors on the inside of the cabinets! Maybe Jeanne has the better mouse trap? The Oxford Library, Branch of the First Region, is now in new quarters in the Lafayette County courthouse—right in the middle of town.

You Ought To See —

... The handbill put out by the First Regional Library entitled "What is a Regional Library?" ... The beautifully equipped new library location of the Forrest library, a unit of the Capital Region. With standard blond wood shelves, desks, new floor covering and fluorescent lights it's about as attractive as a library can be ... The Bay St. Louis library with plenty of room for books, small assembly room and stove and refrigerator which went with the building when it was bought for the library ... The new children's room recently added to the Evans Memorial Library, Aberdeen. The room has been dedicated to Lucile Peacock, the librarian who has put so much of herself into the lives of the children who have literally overflowed the library and made the addition necessary. Through the tireless efforts of Lucile and her progressive library board money was raised for this new room ... The prize winning scrap book of the Lee County Library. Awarded the John Cotton Dana Award at the American Library Association, it may give the reader some ideas about publicity and public relations. The citation was given for "outstanding excellence of widespread publicity." The Jackson (Tenn) Free Public Library, Mrs. Gretchen Conduite, Librarian, also won an award for "the inauguration of a professional publicity program, with considerable coverage in a single year." This scrap book too contains new ideas for use in publicity. You may borrow one or both of them by writing to Miss Helen Geer, ALA Library, 50 Huron St., Chicago 11, Illinois.

Plans For Fall:

The William Alexander Percy Memorial Library plans to have a discussion group on child guidance led by Miss Kelley Moore, Child Guidance Center, Leflore County Health Department.

Vocational Assistance —

In July the William Alexander Percy Memorial Library, in cooperation with the Washington County Health Educator, presented a review for radio of the book "A Lamp is Heavy" by Sheila MacKay Russell. The broadcast was a part of a recruitment program conducted by the Committee on Careers in Nursing.

Part Interest In A Local Author —

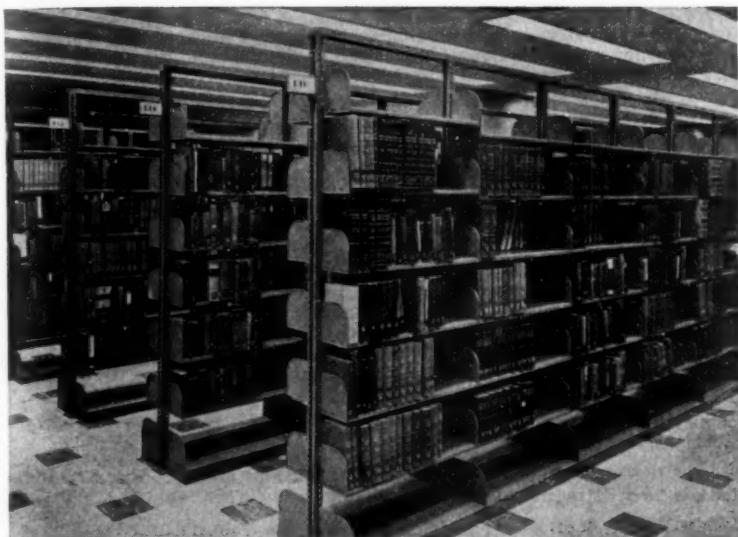
The Greenwood Library staff has a special interest in Charlie Well's new book, *Let the Night Cry*, since he spends a large part of his free time in the library. A second mystery that he has written has been read and criticized by the staff. Authors seem to catch something contagious, or perhaps it is inspirational, around that library, this being the third writer associated with the library—W. T. Person and Alfred Stoner are Trustees.

We Come and Go:

Willie Dee Robbins has returned to her native state to become librarian in the Fisk Public Library, Natchez. After receiving a degree from Louisiana State University Library School, she worked as librarian in the Demonstration School of Women's College at Greensboro, North Carolina, and comes to Natchez from the St. Tammany Parish Library Covington, Louisiana.

Willie D. Halsell, who has served for the past two years as librarian in the Lee County Library, Tupelo, has resigned to accept a position in the

Another FIRST by Library Bureau



One of the stack areas of the new 6-story Oklahoma A&M College Library. These unit-type #52 steel bookstacks are the very latest innovation in stack construction. All furniture and stacks were supplied by the Library Bureau.

The revolutionary new Type #52 stack design is the very ultimate in unit construction. It permits complete flexibility of expansion or change without dismantling any part of the stack and is adaptable to all installations, large or small.

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For additional information on Library Bureau "Type 52" write today for your free copies of two booklets, LBV604 and LBV597.



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Reference Department of Mississippi State College Library. Mrs. Elizabeth Holcomb, formerly a school librarian, in Tupelo, has been appointed as acting librarian for the Lee County Library.

Greenwood-Leflore Library has added a new staff member, Annie Lou Turner who graduated in Library Science at M. S. C. W. this June. Miss Turner won state honors in college English competitions, and so we are anticipating wonderful publicity from her. The new "Bookmobile Lady" at Meridian Public Library is Mrs. L. C. Spencer who succeeds Kathleen Wilson.

Here and There—

When the Library Commission bookmobile arrived in Port Gibson Gretchen Guthrie had her pint-size library assistants there and they were a great help in selecting books to be used for the next three months when the bookmobile comes again.

Mrs. May Crosswell, Neshoba County Librarian, has proved that "awards" are superior to "prizes". Heretofore the library has given prizes for children's summer reading. This summer the library offered reading certificates which were won by 120 children in comparison to the 25 prizes given last year. So children do consider reading a reward within itself!

Mrs. Ruby McGraw, Winston County Librarian, believes in the value of publicity and uses the radio as well as newspaper to tell her patrons of library activities.

In the Macon library Mrs. Burton Ford and Georgia Alice Britton have a very attractive display on nursing as a career.

Mrs. J. T. Wallace, Leake County Librarian, reports that the library now occupies an entire building. The large room which has been added will serve admirably as a reading room and will be most attractive when repaired. This school year the library will give service to ten county schools.

Tombigbee Regional Library's new bookmobile was delivered by Gerstenslager in June and took to the road the first of July with 92 scheduled stops in the bi-county area. These community stops are made twice a month. Rather than establish branch or station facilities in some of the smaller towns, Miss Miller is using the bookmobile as a travelling branch in much the same pattern as the Northeast Regional Library has been following in some of the larger communities in its area. Miss Irene Benton is Tombigbee's new bookmobile librarian, with Mrs. T. L. Vaughn serving as driver-clerk.

The Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library celebrated open house in its new location in July. The board and librarian had long felt the need for a larger and more centrally located building and had talked of various plans but the inspiration for getting something done came when a very fine book collection of several thousand volumes was donated to the library by Miss Ruth Knowles. Among the collection of books are some rare and valuable items which the library is fortunate to own. With the renewed interest and enthusiasm of the board and other interested citizens a sufficient amount of money was raised through public subscription to make a down payment on a building which has been adapted to library use. On the afternoon of open house Miss Louise Crawford and Miss May Edwards, librarians, and Mrs. Rene de Montluzin, Jr., Chairman, and other members of the Library Board were present to re-

ceive guests, show them through the library, and serve refreshments. The library was beautifully decorated with gift flowers. Among the out of town guests were: Mr. John Hall Jacobs, Librarian, of the New Orleans Public Library, and Mrs. Jacobs, Mrs. Eunice Eley and Lelia Harper from the Library Commission staff.

“ . . . WE KNOW THAT FREEDOM CANNOT BE SERVED BY THE DEVICES OF THE TYRANT. AS IT IS AN ANCIENT TRUTH THAT FREEDOM CANNOT BE LEGISLATED INTO EXISTENCE, SO IT IS NO LESS OBVIOUS THAT FREEDOM CANNOT BE CENSORED INTO EXISTENCE.”

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

UNDER THE LAW —

(Public librarians and trustees please read)

Is it important that public libraries be organized under a legal statute?

Does it matter whether or not the library board of trustees is legally appointed?—Not under some vague fragment of a law that is doubtful in its intent, but under a clearly stated legal act that was written expressly to cover the operation of public libraries.

Apparently it matters much!

We have just had a forceable example of the value of operating under the law. It happened like this:

A new city administration came into power in Pascagoula in July, 1953. One of the first acts of the mayor and commissioners was to fire all members of existing boards and commissions, including the library board (and including the librarian). Then people got busy. Whether or not they had ever studied state library laws and the Attorney General's interpretations they began studying now, but it was too late to go back and establish the legal standing of the library which was almost, but not quite, legally set up.

The state library law (sect. 6205 code of 1942, amended 1952, by ch. 207) is broad and general and allows for much freedom of local action but it specifically states, "The management and control of a county, municipal, or regional library shall be vested in a board of five trustees—the first appointments shall be for terms of one, two, three, four and five years, respectively, and thereafter, a trustee shall be appointed annually to serve (5) five years". When laws are written into the statutes it behooves those who want legal protection to be sure they are operating under the letter as well as the spirit of the law.

Well, the librarian has been rehired and the library moves forward with the new board but this disturbance should be a vivid reminder to libraries that want legal protection against what might happen that they should be sure they are **UNDER THE LAW**.

This is a copy of a letter from the Attorney General to the Pascagoula City Attorney, dated August 12, 1953 relative to the situation:

"This is in reply to your letter of July 24 wherein you ask for an opinion as to the legality of the action taken by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of your municipality in abolishing the Library Commission consisting of seven members created under a prior ordinance of your municipality.

"From your letter it appears that your municipality had previously adopted an ordinance providing for a seven man library board. This ordinance was contrary to the provisions of Section 6205, Code of 1942, as amended by Chapter 207, Laws of 1952. Both the original statute and the amended statute provide that the management and control of the municipal library shall be vested in a board of five members.

"Since the municipal ordinance referred to was in conflict with the applicable state statutes, it is my opinion that such ordinance providing for a seven- member board of trustees was not valid, and that the board of trustees appointed under such an ordinance was not properly constituted. Therefore, I believe that the action of the governing authorities of the municipality in repealing the old ordinance and providing for the appointment of a five-member board in accordance with the statute was proper.

"It is my further opinion that since it was impossible to determine which five of the seven members of the former Library Commission were lawfully in office, none of such members has a legal claim to the office and, therefore, the governing authorities are legally authorized to appoint five trustees as provided by the new ordinance."

Signed, J. P. Coleman, Attorney General

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DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

OF GENERAL INTEREST

American Heritage Project

The Library Commission has received notice of a grant of \$6,600 to continue the American Heritage project for another year. Mrs. Clark, Project Director, and Mrs. Eley have met with Library Boards in Natchez, Port Gibson, and Gulfport to give information about the project. Other meetings are scheduled in Pontotoc, Greenwood, Hernando, Corinth, Meridian and Hazlehurst. It is the purpose of the Library Commission to see that Library Board members and citizens generally become acquainted with objectives of the project. During the past year there were twenty-six American Heritage discussion groups conducted in the state. During the coming year there is a prospect that thirty-two groups will be organized. It is hoped that this project may lead to a definite program of Adult Education through public libraries in the State.

AMONG RECENT VISITORS to the Library Commission were Dr. Francis Butler Simkins, Mrs. Rosalyn Shamblin and Lamar Wallis. Dr. Simkins is author of *The South Old and New*, 1947, and the revised edition, 1953, *A History of the New South*. He is in the state getting material for a book on Jefferson Davis. Mrs. Shamblin, who is doing graduate work in library science at the University of Texas was authorized by the University to spend an internship in regional libraries in lieu of a thesis. After spending some time in regional libraries in Georgia she visited the Mississippi Library Commission and the Capitol Regional Library. Mr. Wallis, librarian of the Galveston Texas Public Library, and his family, were visiting home folks in the state. Mrs. Wallis was Mary Elizabeth Cooper, formerly school librarian in Jackson.

Eunice Eley has been appointed Chairman of the Reading and Library Service for the Mississippi Congress of Parents and Teachers. It is the purpose of the chairman to stimulate reading among PTA members and to bring to their attention book lists and library services which are available to them.

Budget Making Time

The Library Commission Board of Trustees has had several meetings to discuss the budget request which will be presented to the State Legislature which meets January, 1954. The Board decided to ask for the same amount of money which was requested of the 1952 legislature—\$494,100.00. (Present appropriation which was granted in 1952 is \$204,804.00)

Details of Budget for July 1, 1954 to June 30, 1956.

I. FOR LIBRARY COMMISSION SUPPORT

1. Personnel Services	\$ 85,980.00
(This includes salary for 11 employees and travel for board and field staff)	
2. Operation	30,472.00
(Includes equipment, supplies, etc.)	\$107,952.00

II. LIBRARY EXTENSION

Books and Periodicals	\$ 84,900.00
Grants to County and Regional Library	191,748.00
Library service for colored race	100,000.00
Bookmobile operation and upkeep	4,200.00
Adult Education (a new item)	5,300.00
	386,148.00
	\$494,100.00

This is a considerable increase over the present appropriation but is in keeping with the needs of the state library extension agency and for the development of library service throughout the State. If this budget is passed it will be because librarians, library trustees, and others have talked personally with their legislators on the need for increased library service and for strengthening the Mississippi Library Commission.

Radio Spot Announcements—

The Public Relations Committee of the American Library Association will furnish spot announcements that may be adapted to practically any public library. Usually there are eight announcements each month. Interested librarians may address requests to Len Arnold, Public Rela-

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tions Consultant, American Library Association, 50 East Huron St., Chicago 11, Illinois.

National Book Week will be observed November 15th through the 22nd. Material for observance may be obtained from Children's Book Council, 50 West 53rd Street, New York, 19, N. Y.

—0—

“... THE LIBRARIES OF AMERICA ARE AND MUST EVER REMAIN THE HOMES OF FREE, AND INQUIRING MINDS. TO THEM OUR CITIZENS—OF ALL AGES AND RACES, OF ALL CREEDS AND POLITICAL PERSUASIONS—MUST EVER BE ABLE TO TURN WITH CLEAR CONFIDENCE THAT THERE THEY CAN FREELY SEEK THE WHOLE TRUTH, UNWARPED BY FASHION AND UNCOMPROMISED BY EXPEDIENCY. FOR IN SUCH WHOLE AND HEALTHY KNOWLEDGE ALONE ARE TO BE FOUND AND UNDERSTOOD THOSE MAJESTIC TRUTHS OF MAN'S NATURE AND DESTINY THAT PROVE, TO EACH SUCCEEDING GENERATION, THE VALIDITY OF FREEDOM.”

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

—0—

OUR ADVERTISERS HELP US. LET'S HELP THEM.

—0—

Books Last Longer if Handled Carefully

With the wholly inadequate supply of library books in the state we as librarians, patrons, citizens might well begin to give serious attention to the more careful handling and care of books. Library Commission books are constantly on the go, being packed, mailed, transported, passed around from librarian or teacher or individual borrower to patrons, students, family and friends. Just so are books owned by other libraries. We do not know the condition in which books are returned to other libraries but those returned to The Library Commission often show signs of much abuse. Books are made not to be hoarded but to be used but when they are unnecessarily torn, marked, and book pockets removed it is an indication of lack of proper use. Many books returned to the Commission must be discarded before they have given an average amount of service. This necessarily limits the number of books available to be sent out next time. Chalk marks are particularly disfiguring and almost impossible to remove. Time spent by members of the Library Commission staff in cleaning and repairing books could be spent in preparing new books for use and salaries used for this purpose might be used to buy more books—if library borrowers were more careful in handling books.

We Suggest—

That borrowers, particularly schools, give some lessens in book care. Americans have the reputation of being about the most careless and most destructive of other people's property. Wouldn't it be a good civics lesson to teach pupils the proper care and handling of books? A good way to impress children with the need for clean books is to put them to erasing other children's pencil marks. Along with the appreciation of books during Book Week a "Clean Books Project" might be started. What about it? Help us take care of the books and we will be able to help you with more books.

And Please Remember—

Don't try to mend books borrowed from the Library Commission—not even to tipping in pages. Books needing repairs should be sent back so that uniform mending practices may be applied. Please keep in mind —TAKE CARE OF THE BOOKS but DON'T MEND THEM!

LIBRARY SERVICE TO THE COLORED RACE

In 1952 The Library Commission received a letter from Dorothy McAllister, a native of Vicksburg who is employed as Supervisor of Circulation at Howard University Library, Washington, D. C., stating her interest in libraries for negroes. After visiting the Library Commission and getting information on the location of branch libraries in the state Miss McAllister made a survey and wrote the following:

"A Negro mother who passes my house every day going to work stopped one day to ask if I had a book on Booker T. Washington which her son could borrow. Another day a boy stopped me to ask if I had a book which told about the composition of the body. Then when I was asked to talk to a group of high school students during Book Week, I realized to my consternation that I had not a single book or book jacket to use for illustrations, nor any book reviews or other materials to help in preparing my talk. These and similar incidents which have occurred since I have been in Vicksburg aroused my interest in library service for Negroes in Mississippi.

"The picture of library service for Negroes in Mississippi which is revealed by the information I assembled is not bright. Neither is it altogether dark and discouraging. One of the encouraging aspects is the sincere interest of the white librarians in improving the service for Negroes. This was revealed in the prompt response to the questionnaire, the detailed information which was given, and the cordiality and broad-mindedness which was shown during the personal interviews. On the dark side is the fact that of the sixty communities which provide public library service only twelve of these provide this service for Negro citizens. In 1939, however, there were only two cities, Meridian and Clarksdale, with public library service for Negroes.¹

"The limited survey which I made showed that the type of service and the source and amount of support varied in the different communities. The best library service for Negroes in the state, no doubt, is in Jackson. Jackson now has two branches for Negroes with a book collection for the two totalling over 7000 volumes, and an annual circulation of over 12,000 volumes. The staff for these two branches consists of a head librarian, two full time assistants, and a part-time clerk. The head librarian has a degree in library science and a master's degree, and one of the assistant's is a college graduate. The two branches have an annual budget of \$12,000 provided from public funds. The salary for the head librarian is over \$2400 a year. Both branches are well housed, one in a separate building and the other in a room specially designed for a library in the College Park Auditorium. The first Negro branch, Carver, sponsored by the Junior League of Jackson, was made a part of the Jackson Public Library System in October 1951, and the College Park Branch was opened in 1952.

¹ Gleason, E. A., *The Southern Negro and the Public Library* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1941), p. 76.

Architect's plans have been completed for a main library for negroes which should be under construction soon.

"The branch for Negroes in Corinth ranks next so far as salary is concerned. A teacher-librarian who is paid by the school board during the school session is paid by the public library during the summer months. With the exception of the librarian in Jackson, the librarians do not have degrees in library science. In Corinth and Greenwood they have had one or two courses in library science. The others have had only on-the-job-training. Some are high school graduates; others have had some college work; and a few have finished college.

"The salaries, except for the librarians in Jackson and Corinth, range from \$30.00 to \$105.00 per month, depending on the number of hours worked. Hours of work range from 6 to 40 hours per week.

"Libraries in Clarksdale, Meridian, Aberdeen, Jackson are housed in separate buildings. The libraries in Greenville, Pascagoula and Hattiesburg consist of one or two rooms in buildings used as community centers. In Greenwood and Corinth the libraries have rooms in the high school building. In Brookhaven a small room has been partitioned off in a building belonging to the county teachers.

"Book collections range from approximately 500 volumes to 8000 volumes. The two branches in Gulfport have 5000 and 3000 volumes respectively, and the two branches in Jackson have a total of 7000 volumes. The Brookhaven and Greenwood branches, both of which were started in 1952, have the smallest collections. In all of the Negro branches except Jackson the books and periodicals are selected, purchased and processed at the main library. Jackson, Brookhaven and Meridian maintain a union catalog at the main library as well as the catalog at the branch. If a reader requests a book which is not in the branch the branch librarian may borrow it from the main library.

"The circulation at the various branches ranges from forty to eighty volumes a day. In most libraries sixty per cent to seventy-five per cent of the books are circulated to children. Aberdeen reports the following statistics for 1952:—

adult fiction	335
adult non-fiction	4081
juvenile fiction	4497
juvenile non-fiction	1869
Total	10,782

"With few exceptions the Negro branches included here are supported by city and county funds in varying proportions. Jackson libraries are supported entirely from city funds. Only Jackson and Pascagoula have fixed budget allotments for service to Negroes. Jackson allows \$12,000 annually, and Pascagoula 10% to 15% of the main library budget. At Aberdeen about a fifth of the librarian's salary (\$11.10 per month) is paid from the Evans Estate Fund and the remainder from city funds. At Greenwood and Corinth the school board and the city share the support of the library. In Greenwood the library room in the high-school building is used and a teacher-librarian paid by the school is responsible during the school hours. The city pays a teacher-librarian to keep the room open three days a week from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

"The Mississippi Library Commission has a "Books by Mail" service which is available to all citizens. Individual teachers, or citizens in rural

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areas or urban communities where there is no public library may secure books they need simply by writing to the Commission and paying the postage. The Library Commission also will lend small collections of books to the public library for the use of Negroes where service to Negroes is not provided by the public library. These collections of one hundred or more books usually are placed in the Negro schools where they may be used for three months or longer.

"This information on public library service for Negroes in Mississippi is not definitive. There are, no doubt, some library branches or services which did not come to my attention. Neither have I included any independent Negro libraries or Negro college libraries which serve the public. Nevertheless, this information though meager, may highlight some of the weaknesses in the service to Negroes, and also may serve as a starting point for increasing and improving the service. Three obvious weaknesses are:—(1) inadequate support from public funds; (2) lack of use of the library; and (3) lack of professionally trained librarians. To remedy the last weakness, one librarian has suggested a workshop for Negro librarians to be worked out cooperatively by the Library Commission, the Negro colleges, and the libraries concerned. More adequate support, of course, is necessary for the employment of better trained librarians and for building better book collections. Better trained librarians and better book collections in turn will mean more readers and a better informed community."

At the same time Miss McAllister was compiling statistics on library service to Negroes in Mississippi the Library Commission was getting material for an article on the same subject. The following is in addition, and in some cases later information, on some of the branch libraries mentioned in the previous article:

The Meridian Public Library branch for negroes has multiplied its services about eight times in the past seven years. This library, built in 1913, is the only Carnegie Public Library in the state for Negroes. Like a great many of our libraries it has not been adequately supported, but along with the growth of the main library, within recent years, the Negro branch has been redecorated and a very much better collection of books provided. For a few years the county library has maintained a bookmobile but it has not given service to colored people. This year with 600 books borrowed from the Library Commission an experiment with three Negro consolidated schools is to be tried. The county Board of Supervisors has promised if the undertaking seems successful they will provide additional funds next year to set up library service to colored people in the rural section of Lauderdale County. Meridian has one of the several American Heritage Project discussion groups for Negroes in the state. In Meridian and in Jackson, the American Heritage Discussion group for Negroes are held in the branch libraries.

When Dr. Julian Evans gave money to build a library in Aberdeen, his home town, he also gave money to build a branch for Negroes, which is Evans Memorial Library, Negro Branch. This library, its books and the salary of the librarian are part of the budget of the Evans Memorial Library. A report from the library shows it is widely used. The librarian sends a sample of requests that have recently come such as "How is rust removed from clothing?", "Where does our city water come from?", "List five outstanding negro newspaper men", "Correct parliamentary procedure". The librarian says there is always need for more books—religious books, books by and about negroes—. The library is used as a community center; cub scout mothers meet there and the County Teacher's

Association holds its meetings there. Teachers bring their classes to the library to do reference work and to sit and read or to hear stories. Recently a "friends of the library" club was organized. It meets one night in each month. A committee cooperated in providing drinks for the picnic held at the summer reading contest. Nothing means more than the story hour held each Saturday morning. Many teachers from nearby towns, especially those taking college courses, use the library for materials needed.

The Myrtle Hall Branch Library for negroes was opened in Clarksdale in May, 1930. The brick building is located on a lot donated by the school board. The building cost \$3,200, the city donating \$2,100 and the balance raised by interested negro leaders. This is the only public library



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building in the state built with local tax funds (the College Park Branch in Jackson is housed in an auditorium for negroes built by the city of Jackson) The Clarksdale library gives bookmobile service to the seven negro high schools in the county. Other negro schools may borrow books from the Myrtle Hall Branch.

In Pascagoula there is a small branch with less than 1,000 books which are used and appreciated. It is opened from three to five, four afternoons a week. The Grenada County Library does not have a branch for negroes but borrows books for them from the Library Commission. In the last school session 366 books were borrowed, ranging from the first through the high school grades. The librarian says that a copy of the Golden Bible was completely worn out from use, not abuse. The librarian bought a duplicate for the school and it was worn out also. The Jeanes supervisor of the county supervised the use of the books and distributed them to the Negro teachers when they came in to her office on Saturday.

The librarian of the Lauren Rogers Memorial Library says, "Ours is a reference library and we do not have a circulating collection, but we offer to the negroes the same privileges as to anyone else, of coming to the library and doing research work."

The Northeast Regional Library, Corinth, which was established in 1951 began service to the colored race in November, 1952 with a very inadequate number of books but, as the librarian says, "This was the beginning." Corinth which is regional headquarters, has a branch for colored people with a collection of 2,500 books, showing for the year circulation over 6,000. The county schools were taken 1,969 books through the few months of last winter when the bookmobile was available to them, and the circulation shows 6,640.

The Lee County Library, Tupelo has begun service to a limited number of negro schools. During the past school year they had 867 books for this purpose, some owned by the County Library and some borrowed from the Library Commission. The circulation of these books during the school year was 17,777.

The First Regional Library, Hernando, began service to the colored race as soon as they found it possible to give attention to this service. The librarian says "We do not keep separate figures but this is our service at present: Batesville has a separate part of their building set aside for Negro service. Hernando, Crenshaw, Como and Coldwater serve their Negro patrons along with their white patrons. We are trying to get some service to Negroes in all of our branches and I think in the future we will be able to do it. I am emphasizing the necessity of serving both races with one book collection. We are not attempting to serve the colored schools by bookmobile now. We serve them through the Jeanes teachers and with books borrowed from the Library Commission." The librarian gave this report as a side light. At one of their children's story hours and elderly Negro woman appeared and the story teller assumed that she was a nurse of one of the children. The woman sat in rapt attention while the stories were being told and when the story hour was over and the children were leaving she came and thanked the story teller and said she heard about the story hour and she was eager to hear stories too, and could she come back the next time? Yes, she became a regular story hour listener.

The Attala County Library circulates books to colored people from headquarters in Kosciusko. The Librarian says that no separate collection is kept and no one is refused a book who asks for it.

The Lincoln County Library began library service to colored patrons by borrowing a small number of books from the Library Commission in the summer of 1952. These books were placed in the Negro community building and a school teacher was employed to keep the library open certain afternoons a week. At the end of the summer the books were sent back to the Library Commission and the station closed, but because of the success of the venture and the interest of the local Negro leaders as well as the County Library Board it was decided that the branch should be made permanent. The Negro County Teacher's Association which owned the building in town agreed to furnish the lumber and the shelves and to partition off one end of the building for the library. The furniture was built by the Negro high school. Paint and other materials were furnished by local business organizations. Local and civic groups and clubs of white members made donations of from \$50.00 to \$150.00 to buy books and furniture. The Kiwanis and the Lion's Clubs each gave donations and became very much interested in the project. During book week a contest was held and the negro population voted on a name for the Library branch. The name Gulledge Library Branch was chosen in honor of a former school teacher there. Eleanor Gralow, the librarian, says the colored branch is very inadequate as to number of books but those available are fresh, recent and usable. The assistant at the Gulledge Branch is a school teacher with three years of college training. The people are interested and are proud of their library and are using it a great deal.

The George W. Covington Memorial Library in Hazlehurst recently opened a colored branch with a collection of books borrowed from the Library Commission. The books are housed in a downstairs, easily accessible attractive room of the Negro high school. One of the teachers is appointed part time librarian. She is paid and the library is operated as a part of the county library system. On opening day city officials, the Library Board and many interested friends gathered at the library for a grand celebration. Because of the interest of a colored teacher in another part of the county a branch has been set up in a home in Georgetown. Mrs. Benjamin Simmons, County librarian, says there has been perfect co-operation between the white and colored races in establishing the library. The colored Women's Garden Club made beautiful arrangements for the Library on opening day.

The Fisk Public Library in Natchez reports that Library service to negroes there is only in the planning stage but the Library Board and staff are giving it serious consideration and hope soon to work out plans to provide this service.

We have always held the opinion that Mississippi public libraries were giving little service to the colored race only because they did not have financial support sufficient to give better service, and that as soon as these library facilities were increased they would be glad to share them with the colored race. This has proved true and now that libraries are receiving better support this service is being extended.

When the State appropriation to the Library Commission became large enough to provide space and increased staff a request was made for a special appropriation to give library service to the colored race. It was in 1950 that the Library Commission requested an appropriation of \$100,000 for service to Negroes. Instead of the \$100,000 requested the legislature made an appropriation of \$8,500. Again in 1952 the Library Commission asked for \$100,000 for service to negroes. This time the appropriation given was \$25,000. Again this \$100,000 request will be made when the

legislature meets in 1954. With state funds available the Library Commission has purchased slightly more than 9,000 books which are circulated to colored patrons through public libraries, branches and negro schools. Jeanes supervisors and head librarians are promoting the use of the books and they are being used extensively.

Again the Library Commission would like to call attention to an announcement made in the last issue of this bulletin. Library scholarships are available to Negroes through a grant of the Carnegie Corporation made to Atlanta University. These scholarships cannot be used for summer study but may be used by students in the regular school year, September through June. Further information may be secured from Mrs. Virginia Lacy Jones, Director of the School of Library Science, Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia.

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71
67
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